adhere to the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed there under.

The Central Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee to take cognizance *suo moto* or look into specific complaints regarding violation of advertising Code by TV Channels.

The Press in India is free from Government control and is in private hands. In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the Press, the Government does not interfere in its functioning. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with the twin object of Preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press. The Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of the Council and it enjoys complete autonomy in its functioning. The Council, which is in the nature of a self-regulatory body of the Press, has built "Norms of Journalistic Conduct", which cover principles and ethics with regard to journalism as also guidelines on reporting the specific issues of public and national importance. The provisions 17 and 36 of the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' prohibits newspapers/ journalists from publishing anything that is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public good taste and displaying false advertisements. The advisories issued by the Press Council of India, however, carry only moral force and are not enforceable in a Court of Law.

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies Films, including that of advertisements for Public Exhibition under the provisions of Section 5(B) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines framed there under. While certifying the Advertisements it is ensured that the advertisements which have any obscene or vulgar contents are either refused or certified after deletion of such scenes.

Second phase of FM stations

1423. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the auction of nearly 330 FM Stations in 91 cities in the ongoing second phase has received an overwhelming response, fetching one time entry fee of about 1,100 crore and opening a source of revenue for Government by way of annual fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government had any plans to liberalise the licensing rules and by when Government propose to come up with IIIrd phase auctions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bidding of frequencies for Phase II of FM radio broadcasting has been conducted between 6.1.06 to 3.2.06. Out of 337 channels across 91 cities in the country put on bidding, 280 channels have been successfully bid. The bids have yielded revenue of Rs. 1157.35 crore. Details of city-wise successful bids are given in the website of the Ministry of I & B *www.mib.nic.in*

(c) At present, there is no proposal to further liberalize the licensing rules, Policy for Phase III of FM Radio has not been formulated as yet.

Superstition in TV serials

1424. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government believe in superstition in all respects;

(b) if not, whether it is a fact that on every Tuesday at 10.00 P.M. and on every Wednesday at 10.00 P.M. serials "AAP BEETI" and "YEH HAVAYEN" are broadcast on Doordarshan's National Channel (DD1);

(c) if so, how far such serials have an adverse effect on the young ones in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prohibit such superstitious serials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that presently the serial 'Yeh Havayen' is being telecast on DD-1 channel, which is a work of fiction and does not encourage superstition.

(c) and (d) Programmes of all satellite television channels, transmitted/ retransmitted through the cable network services, are required to adhere to programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *inter alia*, prescribes that no programme can be carried in the cable service, which encourages superstition or blind belief,